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The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

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Weather

TODAY
HIGH 73 °



TONIGHT
LOW 58 °



TOMORROW
HIGH 74 °



Inside >>>

SPORTS



Spurrier gets a feel for what his team is capable of as the team finishes another spring practice.

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THE MIX



The Decemberists gear up for their third album, a progressive rock opera, "The Hazards of Love."

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VIEWPOINTS



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Second-year economics student



LAKE MORRIS
Third-year print journalism student

What has the stimulus plan really done for the economy? Hear both sides of the story.

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Online Exclusive

SPORTS ONLINE

▶ The men's tennis team gets ready to take on Clemson for their 100th meeting.

VIEWPOINTS ONLINE

▶ Check out our online-only columns from columnists Aaron Gadbury and Sami Hatoum.

www.dailygamecock.com

BIRDCAGE: FIERCE AND FEATHERED FUN

BGLSA and Carolina Productions host annual drag show, celebrate diversity with dance, song

Aleks Kopustynska
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Alliance held its 10th annual Birdcage event in the ballroom Tuesday night.

The drag show co-sponsored by Carolina Productions featured Columbia and USC drag queens and kings onstage dancing the night away to promote diversity in Columbia. This year's theme was fierce and feathered, and was hosted by Patti O'Furniture.

Laura Schneider, a third-year psychology student and president of BGLSA, said the event gives USC a chance to learn about BGLSA in a fun and different way.

"It gives a chance for even the straight community to come out, and have a lot of fun," Schneider said.

Sam Shoemaker, a fourth-year real estate student and BGLSA vice president, brought the event together this year.

"I hope that people come out of this having a good time," Shoemaker said. "I also hope it promotes cultural and diversity of USC."

Shoemaker said that most of the entertainers were invited back from previous years.

The event began with six dancers recreating "Cell Block Tango" from the scene in the movie, "Chicago."

Each entertainer then came on stage to dance and sing, and the crowd went crazy with the music that each entertainer brought. The entertainers performed to songs such as "Single Ladies," "I Feel like a Woman," and "I Will Survive."

Dorae' Saunders, a Columbia native and former contestant on America's Got Talent, performed a Beyonce medley and got much attention from the crowd. She even received many donations from the crowd, tipping her for her wild performance.

Paris LeFaris, who has been entertaining for more than 11 years, is a Columbia native as well.

"I think that this will open up eyes, and let people know that it is not just about going to strip clubs," LeFaris said. "I just want people to see the other side of the drag community."

The birdcage also included acts by Justin Case, Samantha Hunter, Warren Payne, Carla Coxx, Lady La Poodle and Kiki DeVille.

For many USC students, this was their first drag show, and many were very enthusiastic. Lindsey Moore, a fourth-year Spanish student, heard about the show through her Men and Masculinity psychology course, and was really excited to see it.

"I am just excited to see the girls strut their stuff!" Moores said.

Leah Baker, a first-year anthropology student, said that the show was insanely entertaining.

"This was my first time going, and by the end of the show I was up from my seat dancing," Baker said. "I can't



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Above: Dorae' Saunders, a local drag queen, dances and sings on stage at the BGLSA Homophobia Awareness week kickoff, "The Birdcage."

Right: Entertained by the high-energy show, students went so far as to throw cash onstage to performers.



David Walters / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

wait until next year when they do it bigger and better."

The Birdcage is just one of the events during Homophobia Awareness Week. Today there will be plenty of festivities going on outside of Greene Street, including a banner signing to recognize the diversity of Columbia. The event will last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

Moore school launches two new programs

Classes will educate students about Chinese business, government

Hunter Hardinge
STAFF WRITER



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The School of Business will offer two programs to students interested in the Chinese economy.

"This program really focuses on the political side of business. They will take classes on foreign policies and international relations," Folks said.

The second program geared towards undergraduates is the international business and Chinese enterprise and involves actual hands-on experience in China. Right now, the top 20 applicants are being picked for this demanding program.

For this program, students will spend their sophomore and senior years at the University of

Hong Kong, which gives students a chance to make connections. Through 330 hours of classes during the summer at the University of Hong Kong, these students will have to be dedicated to learning.

"This program is for those who want to be in China and who want to be at the top. They don't have to know Chinese when they first join the program, but at the end they will be experienced in the language," Folks said.

At the University of Hong Kong, students will join in other classes with Hong Kong's top 20 students. In turn, Hong Kong's top 20 will have the chance to come to the University of South Carolina.

Through the opportunity of knowing how one of the biggest competitors operates, USC students will be given the opportunity to have an internship in China during their senior year.

After they are finished with The International Business and Chinese Enterprise program, the opportunity to undertake The Master of International Business is suggested.

"Most students of this program will more than likely work towards The Master of International Business to further business knowledge," said Folks.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

PalmettoPride campaign helps keep new baseball stadium clean

Anti-litter campaign involves Columbia youth, encourages participation

Julie Stas
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

PalmettoPride and Gamecock Sports Properties (GSP) have joined forces to keep the new Carolina Baseball Stadium litter free through their Keeping the Colonial Life Arena Clean campaign.

The anti-litter program will occur over a series of eight USC baseball games. Local youth baseball teams will volunteer to lead the crowd in how to properly throw trash away. Last Saturday, the Rays from the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission kicked off the season and anti-litter program at the USC-LSU game.

At the end of the seventh inning, the young baseball players walked throughout the stands carrying trash bags for visitors to throw away their trash. The involvement of young baseball teams in surrounding areas aims to promote keeping South Carolina beautiful through leading by example and encouraging those around them.

Blake Buchanan, Associate General Manager at Gamecock Sports Properties, said he thought it was great to include the youth.

"Fans respond well to the youth and are more willing to place their trash into their bags," Buchanan said. "Each kid successfully closed the game with a full bag of trash. It was a great turnout."

The Keeping the Colonial Life Arena Clean has run during all men's SEC home

games at USC in the two years. Gamecock Sports Properties approached PalmettoPride last year to initiate the successful anti-litter program on campus. PalmettoPride and Gamecock Sports Properties aim to keep the environment and the new Carolina Baseball Stadium as good as new.

"The idea is to have volunteers lead by example. We have such a beautiful new stadium, it would be a shame for visitors to just leave their trash on the floor after each game," said Sarah Robinson, Public Relations Manager for PalmettoPride.

"This program reinforces one of life's lessons — don't litter. There is a proper place to put your trash," she said.

By connecting to the crowds during the USC baseball games,

South Carolina's litter laws:

- No person shall dump, discard, or dispose of litter or solid waste on public property, private property or in the waters of South Carolina.
- Cigarette butts are considered litter as well as a fire hazard.
- No vehicle transporting litter may be or moved on any highway unless the litter is securely fastened by a cover.
- Regardless of what the vehicle is hauling, the load must be covered or secured to prevent the load from escaping from the vehicle.
- When transporting brush or tree limbs, the load must not drag on the road or obstruct the vehicle's operational lights or license plate.
- Fines range from \$200 to \$1,000.
- Guilty convictions can lead to jail time between 30 days to one year.
- The court may impose community service litter clean up hours.
- Authorities may confiscate vehicles used to illegally dump large quantities of litter.



— Information from www.PalmettoPride.org



CAROLINA BRIEFS

- Udal1 Scholarship Workshop, today at 4 p.m. in the Gressette Room, Harper College for rising sophomores and juniors interested in the environment or Native Americans and Alaska Natives interested in healthcare or tribal public policy. Contact Jennifer Collins at (803) 777-0958.
- Goldwater Scholarship Workshop, Monday at 4 p.m. in the Gressette Room, Harper College for rising sophomores and juniors who will get a graduate degree to teach at the college-level or to research natural sciences, mathematics, engineering. Contact Jennifer Collins, Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs (803) 777-0958.
- The USC School of Music invites everyone to the Spring concert performance of the USC Symphonic and Concert Bands March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Koger Center for the Performing Arts. Featured selections to include: “The BSO Forever” March; Leonard Bernstein Suite of Old American Dances; Robert Russell Bennett Bum’s Rush; Donald Grantham Overture for Band and John Heins. Admission is free.

WHO SAID IT?

“When you talk about virginity and sex publicly, people just automatically picture you naked.”

- A) Joe Jonas
- B) Taylor Swift
- C) Jessica Simpson
- D) Britney Spears
- E) Miley Cyrus

Log onto our Web site, www.dailygamecock.com, to cast your vote in this week’s poll.

Last week’s answer:

“I’m scared of jellyfish, dentists, knees, fungus, corn, ships, thunder and Michelle Obama.”

— Rainn Wilson

PIC OF THE DAY



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A homeless dog looks through its cage at the humane society on 121 Humane Lane in Columbia. Every year, thousands of animals are starved, neglected and euthanized.

Local

Jurors who will consider the case of a South Carolina teen accused of plotting to blow up his high school will be picked from across the state in part because of pretrial publicity, a federal judge ordered Tuesday.

In court documents, Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Norton said both prosecutors and attorneys for Ryan Schallenger had voiced no objections to the decision to summon 400 potential jurors from all three of the state’s federal divisions.

Schallenger, 19, was arrested last April after police say his parents picked up a package addressed to him containing 10 pounds of ammonium nitrate. He has pleaded not guilty to three federal explosives charges that carry a possible maximum sentence of 40 years in prison.

In May, federal prosecutors dropped the most serious charge, attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, which carried a maximum life sentence. Schallenger’s trial, which had been scheduled for May, has been delayed several times at attorneys’ request. On Friday, a federal judge ordered the teen to undergo a second mental evaluation and delayed jury selection until August to give both sides more time to evaluate the results.

National

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is sending more money, technology and manpower to help Mexico fight drug cartels and keep violence from spilling across the southwestern border, Obama administration officials said Tuesday.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to travel to Mexico on Wednesday for the start of several weeks of high-level meetings between the two countries on the drug violence issue. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder are expected to meet with Mexican officials in early April.

Violent turf battles among the cartels have wreaked havoc in Mexico in recent years and led to a spate of kidnappings and home invasions in some U.S. cities.

The Obama administration’s multi-agency plan includes nearly 500 agents and support personnel. However, officials did not say where the additional agents would come from or how long they would stay at the border.

Napolitano said officials were still considering whether to deploy the National Guard to the Arizona and Texas borders with Mexico, which the governors had requested.

World

BEIJING — A video that appears to show police fatally beating a Tibetan protester was a fake, concocted by supporters of the Dalai Lama, China said Tuesday — the same day the video-sharing network YouTube said its service had been blocked in China.

The video has been posted on YouTube in recent days.

A spokesman for Google, which owns YouTube, said he couldn’t comment on the Chinese government’s reason for the block.

“We are looking into it and working to ensure that the service is restored as soon as possible,” spokesman Scott Rubin said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

China occasionally blocks YouTube to prevent access to videos that criticize or shine an unflattering light on its policies. Users in Beijing said they were unable to access the site late Tuesday.

The official Xinhua News Agency, citing an unidentified official with China’s Tibetan regional government, reported Tuesday that the video came from sources tied to the government-in-exile of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, and was pieced together from different places.

—The Associated Press

Crime Report

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Malicious injury to animals, personal property, 3:04 p.m.

Gateway Academy 1530 Wheat St. An unknown suspect broke the victim’s windshield and bent the hood. The damages seem to have been done by the subject’s feet.

Estimate damages: \$5,000
Reporting officer: Daniel Alonzo

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Larceny, breaking into motor vehicle or tanks, 10:05 a.m.

Horizon Garage, 519 Main St. An unknown suspect broke the victim’s driver side rear window. Estimated damages: \$200
Reporting officer: Mark Harrelson

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Burglary, petit or simple larceny, 9:12 a.m.

Gambrell Hall, 817 Henderson St. An unknown suspect stole \$4 in change from the victim’s coffee cup on his desk. Reporting officer: Peter Nicholas

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Grand larceny, 10:04 p.m.

Russell House, 1400 Greene St. An unknown suspect stole the victim’s blue/white Peace Sports moped. After a brief search, it was found in the loading dock area of RH. The moped was towed to the USCPD impound lot for processing. Estimated value: \$1,200
Reporting officer: Chaz Carrington

— Compiled by News Editor Liz Segrist

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We wanted to share our good news!

Congratulations to The Daily Gamecock newspaper and Garnet & Black magazine for winning eight awards in the student category of the American Advertising Federation’s 2009 ADDY awards held Sat., 3-14-09.

The Daily Gamecock garnet&black

Gold Student ADDY
Cory Burkarth & Brian Walker
Aidan Zanders (3 awards)

Silver Student ADDY
Elizabeth Howell
Meredith Ray
Morgan Reid
Megan Sinclair

The Student ADDYs is a creative competition and is a sub-category of the National ADDY Awards competition, sponsored by the American Advertising Federation (AAF). A distinguished panel of industry representatives judge the Student ADDY Awards, as well as, the professional competition.

 Not affiliated with The Woodlands Land Development Company, L.P. in Montgomery and Harris County, Texas.

DIFFERENT DIFFERENT

Stimulus package delivers much needed aid for Wall Street, Main Street

The idea of the stimulus package is not a pleasant one, particularly when looked at through the eyes of the media. It's nothing more than a free-for-all for the scandalously mismanaged banks and insurance companies that brought us down, they say.

When considering this argument critically it does not stand up, though. The money being poured into these institutions is going to the largest and/or strongest institutions that remain. AIG, the very representation of greed itself, holds insurance for 106 million employees of 180,000 businesses in the United States alone. If AIG were to fail, fully one third of Americans would suddenly lose that insurance policy. It is a possibility that cannot be allowed.

Similar stories are behind the bailout funds given to Bank of America, Chase and the various other entities that have staved off financial obliteration with the help of taxpayer money.

Sad as it may seem, when we are helping banks, insurance companies and those with defaulted mortgages, we are saving ourselves.

The other components of the stimulus are less controversial. Repairing schools, revamping infrastructure and digging into "shovel ready" projects are a sure bet to give the economy a quick jolt. The fear that comes with this promise is of the twin plagues of crippling debt and rampant inflation.

To understand why these ills are not apocalyptic, consider the following hypothetical.

Beginning in 1980, America endured what was essentially a three-year economic downturn, which

is about a year longer than the projected duration of the current recession. Imagine now that this recession had been a bit deeper all around, taking on the makeup of today's mess.

The economy still rebounds in a few years, the wheels of innovation and progress chug along and then we hit a tiny recession at the tail end of 1990. Now it's time for the relatively carefree and irrefutably prosperous days of the Clinton era. How would this decade be different with a major recession not long in the past?

There would be less investment, which means perhaps the Internet would have hit its stride a bit later. Credit would be a little harder to come by, depriving people of the luxuries that characterized the decade. Inflation would also restrict spending, but we should realize and appreciate that our economy is not Argentina's or Turkey's. The hyperinflation that derailed their economies would not occur here simply because our Federal Reserve is too skilled and complex to allow that.

So as a whole, the decade would still be like the '90s that we knew and loved, just on a more modest scale. Is that such a bad thing?

Even with the burden of unprecedented debt, our future can still be prosperous. It will simply be scaled back to a reasonable level of superfluity. If that is the price of the stimulus, we should all be willing to pay it.



PETER SCHAEFFING
Second-year economics student

STROKES 21BROKE2

Obama's rescue plan sends wrong message to CEOs; won't fix economy

What did I tell you, USC?

I told you it wasn't wise, but they did it anyway.

I'm talking about the economic bailout our government passed. I hate to say I told you so, but from my Oct. 2 column titled "Markets need reform, not cash" I said that this bailout was the wrong idea.

And I was right.

Let's go back to August/September of this year. Wall Street had fallen due to greed and lack of ethics, banks were on the brink due to bad investments, the housing market had tumbled due to sub-prime mortgages. Here came our government with this huge bill that would "help us."

I said we needed to hold our CEOs accountable, and what did we do?

Gave them billions, yes, with a "B," of taxpayer dollars.

I said we also needed to raise the value of the dollar, and what do we do?

Print more of it. Maybe someone should tell our government it isn't how much paper you print out, it is how much gold you have to back it up.

I also said we needed to achieve energy independence, but that appears we are putting that on the back burner for now.

So, was this bailout worth it? Was it a good

idea? I'd say no.

I'd say we've wasted billions of dollars. Washington has given out money to banks, and they are asking for more. The housing market hasn't rebounded yet because more people are losing jobs and can't make payments. This whole idea of trickle-down economics from a liberal Congress is not only contradictory, it isn't working.

Why keep giving money to people that lost all the money in the first place?

I still say it isn't too late to let my course of action run through. We should just let the economy fall down. Let it fall and start over. Sometimes doctors say there is only so much they can do for a patient, and

I'm convinced there is only so much you can do for government. Doctors give the patient morphine and move on. Well, we've pumped this economy full of morphine, and now it is time we let it die. We need to let it fall and start over.

Sure it will get rough and people will lose jobs.

But I say we need to toughen up. John McCain's buddy wasn't lying when he said we are a nation of whiners.

It is time we toughen up and get that old American grit back. We've lost our moxy, and maybe the economy fallen was our chance to get it back.

But what do we do? Whine about it. Myself included.

Those who peak too early deserve pity

Living relatively unextrordinary lives preferable to extraordinary crash and burn of young celebrities

Legend has it that Achilles had a choice between living a short and glorious life and a long, pleasant and, ultimately, unmemorable one. Anyone who has ever wanted to see Brad Pitt's bare buttocks has seen "Troy" — I know that's why I saw it, at any rate — and anyone who has seen "Troy" knows that Achilles wound up living the first of those lives. Sure enough, he became the greatest Greek warrior, but he died young, having lived a lifetime of violence and without having found love.

I don't really aspire to much. I'm planning on going to grad school, getting my doctorate and becoming a college professor. After that, I'll settle down, persuade some unlucky woman to squeeze out two and a half kids and live out a mediocre, suburban white-collar existence. Around age 50, I'll look at my comfortable existence, my family and my enjoyable, if unspectacular career, and smile.

Consider some of our modern-

day Achilles: Lindsay Lohan and Michael Phelps. At their peak, both had fame, money, admiration — the world was their proverbial oyster. But now, Lohan, once admired by young girls and lusted after by young boys, has become, or at least seemed to become, a drug-addled has-been. At age 22, no less. Already, the best years of her life are behind her.

Michael Phelps, likewise. He's been to three Olympics, won 16 medals, 14 of them gold, and made millions of dollars and millions of fans. Within months, he had sunk to playing high-stakes Beirut and taking bong hits in Columbia — allegedly — and he had already accomplished the greatest thing in his career. Even if he rehabilitates his image and wins another medal or two in 2012 — and I would speculate he won't if the current pattern keeps up — he'll become a historical afterthought by the time he's 30 years old.

Often have I wished for the gifts or fame that come with being a professional athlete or actor, but after seeing what's happened to two people my age, and what they have to look forward to, I'm having second thoughts.

At least Achilles, once he died, got to go to Elysium, where he lived with the other great heroes of his time. Phelps and Lohan, however, will spend the rest of their lives as

distant memories at best, national punch lines at worst.

My opinion on which life I'd rather lead is probably informed, in part, by my certainty that I will never have the fame that Phelps and Lohan have now. But I still wouldn't wish their lives on anyone, least of all wish for them myself.

SOMETHING RUFFLING YOUR FEATHERS?

WRITE FOR THE VIEWPOINTS SECTION OF TDG.

SEND A 500-WORD SAMPLE COLUMN TO SAGCKVIEW@MAILBOX.SC.EDU OR COME TO A SECTION MEETING: WEDNESDAYS AT 6 P.M. IN RH 341

The Daily Gamecock

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Prior preparation key in advisement season

Spring is in the air. Flowers are budding, the weather is warming and everyone seems to be picnicking on the Horseshoe. It's also that time when students are hustling to their advisors' offices so they can schedule their next semester of class.

It can be stressful — after all, we all hope to graduate in four years, and there is very little room for a misscheduled class. When you throw in progression requirements and class time conflicts, it can leave you feeling a little lost.

That's why we have one piece of advice for students and advisors as they begin to hammer out which classes to take — do your research and come prepared.

Students should be tinkering with every aspect of a possible schedule in the days leading up to their advisement, and should be aware of what they need to take and how many classes they are from graduating. This way, you don't risk falling into Bubble Blowing 101 because you nor your advisor know what you need to take.

Advisors need to take the time to get prepared for scheduling students' classes too. Looking over each student's progression checklist before they come in doesn't take that long, and will ultimately save everyone's time. Waiting until the student is in the office doesn't help anyone, and it makes it more likely that you schedule a student for something he doesn't need or has already taken. Just remember, that as an advisor, you are supposed to help your student.

Just think, with a little preparation, everyone can spend less time in advisement and more on having Magnolia pollen induced allergy attacks.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckview@mailbox.sc.edu

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name, year

in school and area of study. We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all. All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.



MICHAEL BAUMANN
Fourth-year political sciences student

The Decemberists shine in ‘Hazards’

Portland indie rock band creates mesh of folk, progressive in rock opera

Colin Jones
MIX EDITOR

The Decemberists “The Hazards of Love”

★★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Expansive and impressive at every English soaked nook, The Decemberists follow up to 2006’s “The Crane Wife” stands as an enlightened piece of progressive rock opera that will both excite and infuriate fans with its eastern influenced riffs rooted firmly in the sleaze and perfect arrogance of ‘70s rock.

A self-professed anglophile in the vein of folk singer Robin Hitchcock, who makes a guest appearance on “The Hazards of Love”, singer Colin Meloy delivers a surprisingly listenable opus that snakes around the convoluted story of Margaret (voiced by Lavender Diamond’s Becky Stark) and her shape-shifting, forest-dwelling beau William (voiced by Meloy.) Add in a dash of royal retribution from an enraged forest queen (voiced by My Brightest Diamond’s Shara Worden) and infanticide, and Meloy cooks up a tale ready made for a crooked children’s fable.

In wrapping a story around The Decemberists, Meloy forces himself to write short, terse lyrics that enable a dialogue to develop. Instead of the roundabout verses of “Picaresque” or “The Crane Wife,” the songs feature a combination of conversational verses that hopscotch back and forth and catchy, yet unpredictable, choruses.

This is definitely pure, unforgiving rock opera complete with a string-laden prelude, interlude and individual cuts that seem to bleed into one another making the entire album one amorphous piece of art. But it is modern opera at its finest and most engrossing — not as wholly unlistenable as The Who’s “Tommy” or over ambitious as Pink Floyd’s “The Wall.” The album instead is a highly crafted amalgamation of previous works like “The Tain LP,” “The Island” and the three-part Crane Wife fable with the storybook imagination of Grimm’s Fairy Tales.

Named after a 1966 EP from British folk singer Anne Briggs, “Hazards” highlights Meloy’s obsession with obscure ‘60s British folk singers.

From the opening track “The Hazards of Love 1 (The Prettiest Whistles Won’t Wrestle the Thistles Undone)” it becomes obvious that ‘Hazards’ as a whole is Meloy’s pet project — a work of creative strain and artistic love. This easy folk tinged introduction seems to set the tone for a usual album from Meloy and the band, but are all but derailed by the slamming introductory power chord on the following track “A Bower Song.”



Courtesy of MCT Campus

The Decemberists play at Austin City Limits. The group is preparing to release their third album “The Hazards of Love.”

While the format is different for the group, the pieces that make it up are relatively the same. Haunting chords from 12-string guitars and harpsichords pulsate behind Meloy’s English degree grab bag of 10-cent words.

But what takes The Decemberists down an alternative path is the intrusive, yet rightly placed, guitar riffs from guitarist Chris Funk and Meloy that scream of listening to far too much Jethro Tull or Black Sabbath. On tracks like “The Wanting Comes in Waves/ Repaid” and “The Queen’s Rebuke/The Crossing,” wailing guitar interrupts the light picking of Meloy’s acoustic guitar and Jenny Conlees’ gospel organ.

Instead of following the formula of the last few albums released by the group, The Decemberists throw a curve ball at their fans by seemingly relinquishing a large portion of their indie folk roots for an experimental undertaking that combines the bard’s tradition with hip thrusting arena rock gods.

“The Wanting Comes in Waves/ Repaid” plays out like dueling bands fighting against emotion and distortion. On the track, William gently begs his forest queen mother to let him be with Margaret while she retorts with angry riffs and power chords. Harpsichord backs William’s plea

while the queen hisses her replies with intense progressive riffs that break through the calm.

This contrast of hard and soft becomes the leitmotif on “Hazard.” On “The Rake Song,” quite possibly the most violent cut on the album, a man describes how he dealt with the burden of his children after his wife died. Against ominous jaunting chords and fuzzy distortion, Meloy croons as the character and reveals the beating, burning and poisoning of the rake’s children.

This shocking portrayal of callous violence is nothing new to Meloy and company, but in this scene the running plot involving love and struggle only heightens it. The running, complex narration and brutal wordplay doesn’t hinder the reaching and meticulous detail that the group employs — it only seems to further its use as a tool in The Decemberists repertoire.

While “The Hazards of Love” will surely isolate listeners firmly set in the short, easy ballads of past albums, it remains an ambitious, unrelenting step in the right direction for the group and one of the best albums of the year.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

Sent by Ravens keep faith through music

Local band hopes to spread message through third album

Shelby Sachs
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fame and fortune are what most bands strive for — but not Sent By Ravens, they are content with their fan base and most importantly, their faith.

Based out of South Carolina, Sent By Ravens has been gracing their presence with their passionate and heartfelt songs and performances for over three years.

Zach Riner (vocals), Jamie Windham (bass), Andy O’Neal (guitar), JJ Leonard (guitar) and Dane Andersen (drums) make up Sent By Ravens, and despite going through two previous drummers in the past, the current lineup can only be attributed to their constant faith and fate.

“I moved up here three years ago from Georgia after finding [Jamie and Andy] on Myspace,” Riner said. “[While searching for a new drummer], Jamie, Andy and I found Dane on YouTube. We sent him a message and one month later he and JJ bought one way tickets [from Hawaii] and have been here for a year and a half.”

Sent By Ravens has a very distinct sound that comes from the members’ unique musical backgrounds mixed with their own personal faith and experiences.

“Member changes over the years have affected the sound significantly,” said Riner. “I think now we’ve [finally] got a winning sound and work ethic.”

With two albums, self-titled “Sent By Ravens” (2007) and “The Effect of Fashion and Prayer” (2008), already under their belts, they are working hard on a third album that will be released later

this year. With several of their new songs off the upcoming album, such as “New Fire”, already getting high praises at shows, fans can expect yet another great album from these guys.

“Trailer vs. Tornado,” a more intense and upbeat song, is one of Sent By Ravens most popular songs and is considered to be their first single. With heavy rotation from local radio station Rock 93.5, it is no wonder why this song is catching on with fans everywhere so quickly.

“[‘Trailer vs. Tornado’] is about us (believers) against the world and how we can make a difference in our words through love,” Riner said. “And we actually all live in a trailer together, so it’s like us (the trailer) vs. the tornado (the world).”

One of the most important things to the members of Sent By Ravens is their fans, and they enjoy being interactive with them throughout all of their high-energy performances whether it is singing personally to their fans or letting some of their biggest fans sing along with them on stage.

“We try to make the audience feel as though they are part of what we’re doing. I think people can see that,” Riner said. “[However,] if you meet us we’re not that intense in real life. We’re actually all pretty quiet — not shy, just soft-spoken — so I find it funny we actually get on stage and scream at people.”

With a smaller, yet highly dedicated and supportive fan base, Sent By Ravens is hoping that in the next couple of months, they will have the backing of a record label that will allow them to spread their message to even more people.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Julia Roberts and Clive Owen star in “Duplicity,” as two ex-spies who team up to take down two CEOs.

‘Duplicity’ steals show with ex-spy romance

Roberts, Owen performances enhanced by great writing

Jimmy Gilmore
STAFF WRITER

“Duplicity”

★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Writer/Director: Tony Gilroy
Starring: Julia Roberts, Clive Owen

There are moments in “Duplicity” when star Clive Owen, sporting a dashing array of suits, could pass for a modern day Cary Grant, retaining not only the legend’s charm and impeccable sense of timing, but also somehow finding the perfect convergence of his screwball comedies and espionage thrillers.

Writer/director Tony Gilroy’s (“Michael Clayton”) second effort follows an ex-CIA agent (Julia Roberts) and ex-MI6 agent (Owen) who team up to take down two violently competing CEOs (Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti) with hopes to steal close to \$40 million to fly to Europe and forge a blissful affair.

And in its globe-trotting, chronology-fracturing, motive-blurring, double-crossing, red herring structure, Gilroy has pulled off a mighty feat of craftsmanship. No, it’s not necessarily the pitch perfect twist

ending or the way he holds his plot together by sometimes threadbare strings, but rather his nuanced, balanced direction that always keeps “Duplicity” in constant swing between suspense and romance, with necessary sprinkles of tongue-lashing comedy.

It may be a devilishly cheeky game, but its production values make it fabulous to look at. Robert Elswit does masterful photography, reveling in a cascade of sumptuous colors while also providing diverse lighting and shading work.

Editor John Gilroy matches Elswit’s sense of space and interrelationships in the various locales while also finding simple ways to communicate the expanding complexity with ease.

The result is a speedy, slick and utterly sophisticated piece of easily digestible genre fare. Gilroy’s dialogue crackles between Roberts and Owen, whose chemistry is necessarily inconsistent to reflect the shifting degrees of trust and possible backstabbing that are almost innate to their relationship.

Credit also goes to costume designer Albert Wolsky, who provides a great range of contemporary styles that up the classiness. The film’s art direction is also top-notch, with wonderfully detailed hotel rooms contrasting the emptiness of the corporate offices.

“Duplicity” earns its title through its continual emphasis on pairs, repeated action and double crosses,

but its insistence to adhere to the basic execution of the heist caper genre is ultimately what makes it such well-oiled entertainment.

It often feels like a nostalgic reworking of romantic crime films of the past, as if Gilroy longed to be fully alive in an imagined, by-gone Hollywood community where similar plots were more commonplace.

But further still, it moves past superficiality, at least in part, by looking at its contemporary setting and connecting threads out of technological incompetence and also creating conflict within the contradictions of its seemingly global space.

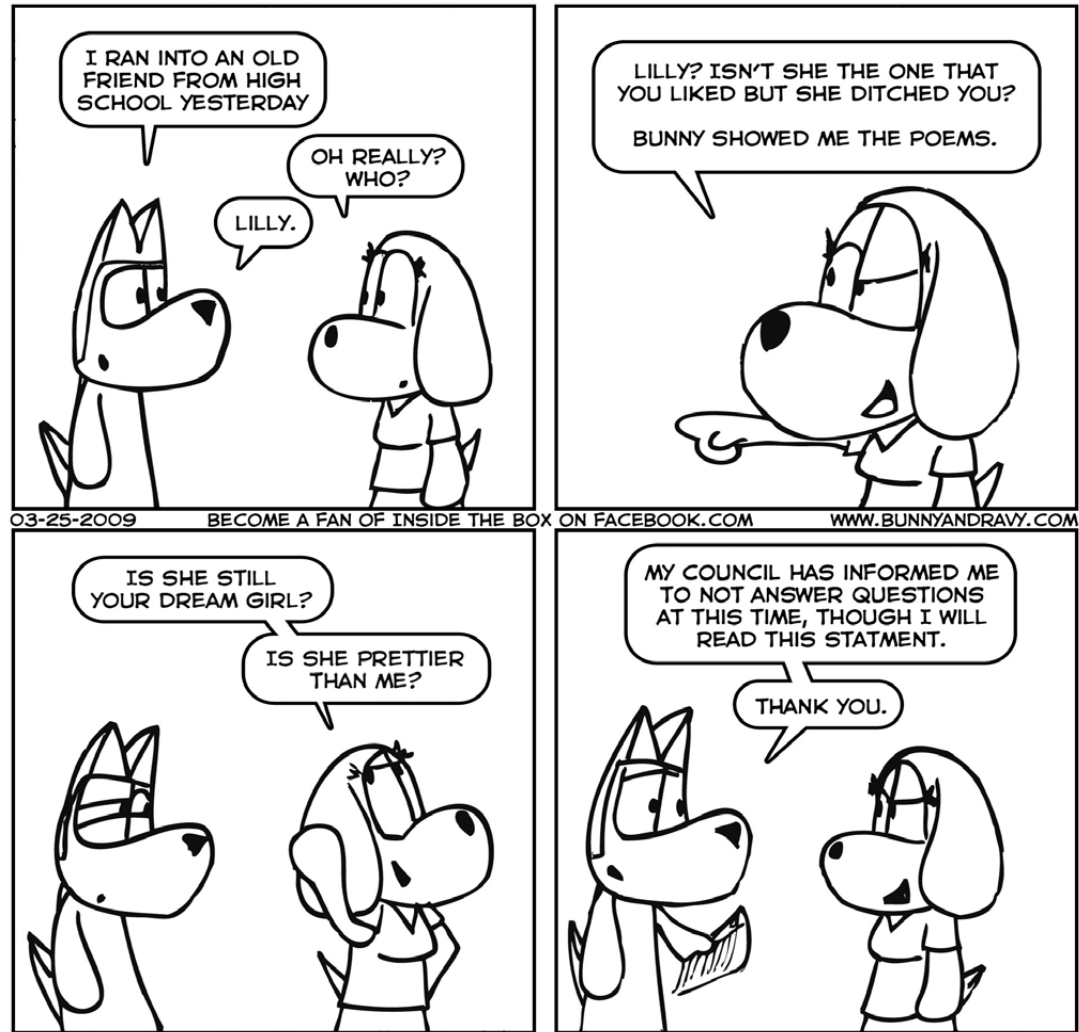
And yes, it even turns cutthroat corporate competition into something of a satire, where every word out of Wilkinson’s mouth is stressed with the utmost importance, and Giamatti flails with desperation.

Whether there really is honor among thieves may not be answered until the film’s final minutes, and the constantly shifting structure of “Duplicity” may provoke some head scratching.

If one thing does remain clear at the end, it’s that Gilroy continues to create a name for himself as a genre filmmaker with a seemingly innate understanding of structure, clearly defined visuals and unbridled entertainment.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

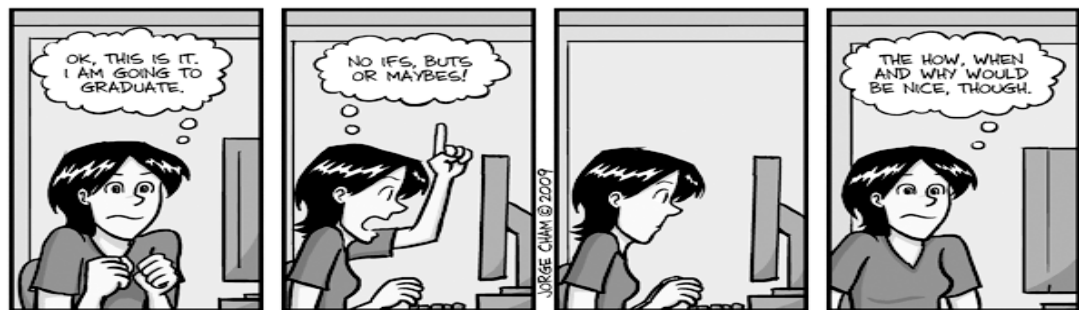
Inside the Box ♦ *By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock*



The Whiteboard ♦ *By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock*



PhD ♦ *By Jorge Chan*



HOROSCOPES

ARIES Don't rush things; let them develop and mature naturally. When it's time to take action, you'll know, and it should be very soon.

TAURUS Think about a friend's suggestion. It's not the sort of thing you'd normally do, but that doesn't mean it won't work.

GEMINI A door will open, leading to prestigious career advancement. Are you ready to convince the others you're the perfect person for the job?

CANCER You're making a good impression on the boss and other officials. They're looking for answers and you keep coming up with creative suggestions.

LEO The best-laid plans of mice and men often take unexpected twists. That's likely to happen now, so don't relax quite yet.

VIRGO There are certain rules you must follow, but don't stifle all creativity. If somebody comes up with a good idea, think it over. You could make some big improvements.

LIBRA You're moving quickly and you are amazingly inventive. You find new ways to make what you want in a flash, while you're multitasking.

SCORPIO Encourage a loved one to tell you about his or her secret hopes and dreams. You can help the good ones come true, and overcome worries and fears.

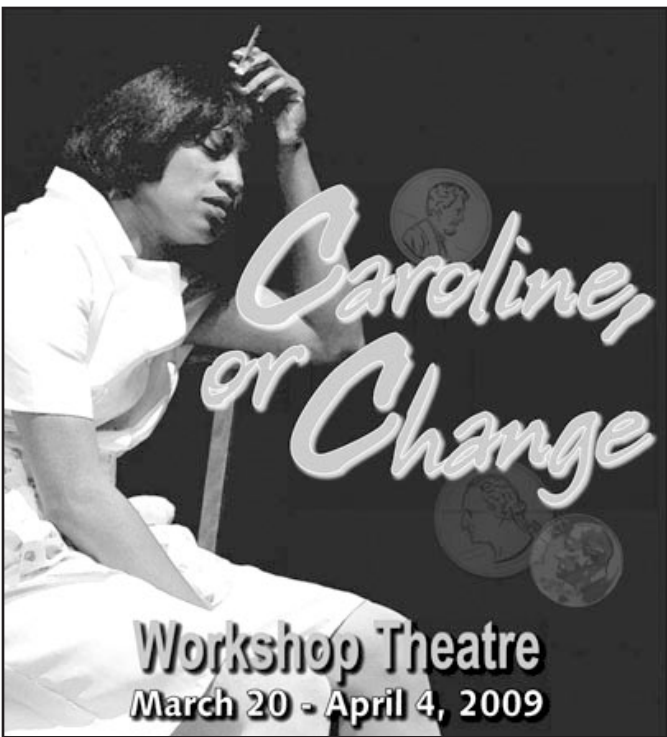
SAGITTARIUS Be careful around anything that could break. Most accidents happen at home, so watch out for that. There's a happy ending, so go ahead and replace it.

CAPRICORN No need to hurry, especially if you're doing something new. That's when the most mistakes are made, as you may already know.

AQUARIUS By now, you should have pretty much everything you need. This is good, because you'll soon be distracted by other interests.

PISCES You've been wondering what to do. The planning phase soon will be over. Better review your notes so you can take appropriate action.

THE SCENE @USC



CAROLINE, OR CHANGE
8 p.m., \$14
Workshop Theater

Today

MR. B'S GOODTIME KARAOKE EXPLOSION
8 p.m., free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

CHE
5:30 p.m. (Part 1) & 8:00 (Part 2), \$6.50
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

Tomorrow

NEW BROOKLAND TAVERN'S SOUND BOARD PARTY
8 p.m., free
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

SHAWN'S BIG LOVE RETRO DANCE NIGHT
8 p.m., free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

USC WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT
7:30 p.m., free
Koger Center

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

03/25/09

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ACROSS

- Thompson of "Howards End"
- Econ. agcy.
- Of singers
- Our satellite
- I see!
- Inspirational discourse
- Covered walkways
- Incompetent
- Railroad employee
- Hankering
- P. Goss grp.
- Signs off on
- Money player
- 9-to-5 worker
- Bus. letter abbr.
- Actress Peeples
- 1945 conference site
- Easter bloomer
- Burn with hot liquid
- Muddy
- Ooze
- Frightening shout
- Previous spouses
- Certain cash machine
- Gerund maker
- "All over the World" grp.
- London hrs.
- Gangster's gun
- Garden company
- Social occasion
- Rodent burrows
- Wagner heroine
- Here, in Le Havre
- Splitsville
- Most likely
- Mo
- Middle Eastern nation

DOWN

- Out of gas
- Actress Demi
- "Happy Days" co-star Erin
- Opposing position
- Cliques
- Of the chest
- Spanish house
- Division of a polo match
- Best policy?
- ___ Khayyam
- Meat cut
- To a man
- Sodium hydroxide
- Contents abbr.
- Mooing animal
- Flower of Texas
- Bind again
- Face-to-face exams
- Bonnie's love
- Shrine at Mecca
- Concerned person
- Bursera resin

Solutions from 03/24/09

M	O	C	H	A	W	A	G	E	C	H	A	S
P	L	I	E	D	E	R	O	S	L	A	T	H
H	A	T	C	H	E	R	I	E	S	E	T	T
	T	E	N	E	T	S		S	A	T	I	N
A	S	H	O	R	E	H	A	T	T	R	I	C
S	P	A		E	M	S		T	H	E	S	E
T	O	T	S		Y	E	A		D	R	O	S
R	O	C	C	O		M	R	T		E	U	B
O	N	H	I	G	H	A	S		U	T		U
		E	N	D	O	W		P	H	D		R
H	A	T	T	E	R	A	S		H	I	N	G
E	L	F	I	N		B	E	L	U	G	A	
D	E	A	L		H	A	T	S	H	E	P	S
D	C	C	L		A	S	T	A		S	E	S
A	S	E	A		S	H	O	T		T	S	A

- Cynthia of "Sex and the City"
- Held fast
- Sign of sadness
- Inflexible
- Peeper covers
- Red Bordeaux
- Dearie
- Incise deeply
- Automaton of Jewish legend
- Game setting
- Cicely or Mike
- Visibly drained
- Speaker of baseball
- Lawnmower brand
- Some sloths
- Tallahassee sch.
- In place of

Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

03/25/09

3			8	4				1
				2				6
	8			5			9	
			5				1	8
	1		4	7			2	
	7			6				
	9		3				4	
	6			1				
4				8	6			7

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 03/24/09

9	1	7	5	3	8	2	4	6
5	6	2	1	4	9	8	3	7
8	3	4	7	6	2	1	9	5
3	7	9	2	5	6	4	1	8
2	4	1	8	9	7	6	5	3
6	8	5	3	1	4	7	2	9
7	5	3	4	8	1	9	6	2
1	9	8	6	2	3	5	7	4
4	2	6	9	7	5	3	8	1

Gamecock coaches discuss changing strategy

*Spurrier, Johnson
adjusting schemes, style
to new personnel*

Michael Aguilar
SPORTS EDITOR

USC coach Steve Spurrier addressed the media following his seventh spring practice this year and it seems that the coach is getting a better feel for what his team is going to look like in the coming season. Of course, Spurrier would never let on that “getting a better feel for his team” is a perfect process.

“We’re just practicing away,” Spurrier said. “We’re just running plays and making mistakes and trying to correct and seeing who can do what.”

Spurrier is not the only man on the Gamecocks coaching staff who is still feeling out the abilities and disabilities of his team. Defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson is adjusting his defense to a new scheme and, so far, it has been anything but easy going.

“You can imagine how much [the cornerbacks] are struggling with [the new scheme] right now,” Johnson said. “We’ve had about three or four practices and then we put in that new 3-3 thing today to get some work on that. So just about time they think they know what they are doing, we add a little bit.”

“That new 3-3 thing” is a scheme which allows Johnson some freedom with his All-American junior defensive end/linebacker Eric Norwood. While Carolina will stick with its former defensive

backfield set, including the “spur” position, Norwood moves to what Johnson calls a “bob linebacker.” As the bob, Norwood would move to defensive line and sophomore linebacker would replace him as linebacker.

When it comes to Norwood though, Johnson realizes that there is one thing that he, as a coach, must focus on.

“I’m not going to get Eric Norwood hurt this spring,” Johnson said. “I’d be the stupidest coach in America.”

That being said, Norwood has been working hard since the clock struck double zeroes at the Outback Bowl in January and it shows in his physique and his play.

“[Norwood’s] gotten a little thinner and is down four or five percent body fat,” Johnson said. “So I think he’s gotten a little quicker. On the pass rush, he’s been a little quicker on the edge.”

Spurrier has been busy putting wrenches in the works of his offensive scheme as well. One of the biggest twists has been talk of the “Cocky Formation,” a formation featuring junior wide receiver Dion LeCorn taking snaps modeled after Arkansas’ famous “Wild Hog” formation.

“We’re just practicing away,” Spurrier said. “We’re just running plays and making mistakes and trying to correct and seeing who can do what.”

Spurrier has also been pleased with the progress of his running backs, a position that was a definite weak spot for USC last year.

“We’re making a little progress,”



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Junior defensive end Eric Norwood makes a sack against Arkansas during the 2008-2009 season.

Spurrier said. “[Freshman] Jarvis Giles is a quick back. All the running backs, I think, are much better than they were last year. They’ve all improved.”

One player that has truly made a name for himself has been all-everything freshman Stephon Gilmore. Gilmore saw time at quarterback, safety and running back while he was in high school and the USC coaches are having trouble figuring out where to place

him on the field, only in the sense that they don’t know where he will do the most good.

“Stephon’s a football player,” Spurrier said. “He can play about any position and right now he’s tough out there. He’s tough to beat. He covers, makes interceptions, tackles, hits. He’s a real football player.”

“Gilmore is doing pretty good and I think the more reps he gets the better he will be,” Johnson said.

While Spurrier and Johnson are both getting better acquainted with their players as those players, both new and old, change, Spurrier understands that his team is nowhere near where he wants it to be.

“We’re a long way off from playing,” Spurrier said. “We’re just practicing right now, trying to get guys to compete in practice.”

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

USC recovers by pounding Cougars

*Baseball sparked to 12-run win
by offense from Ebert, Enders, Crisp,
pitching from Cooper, Hopper*

Sam Davis
STAFF WRITER

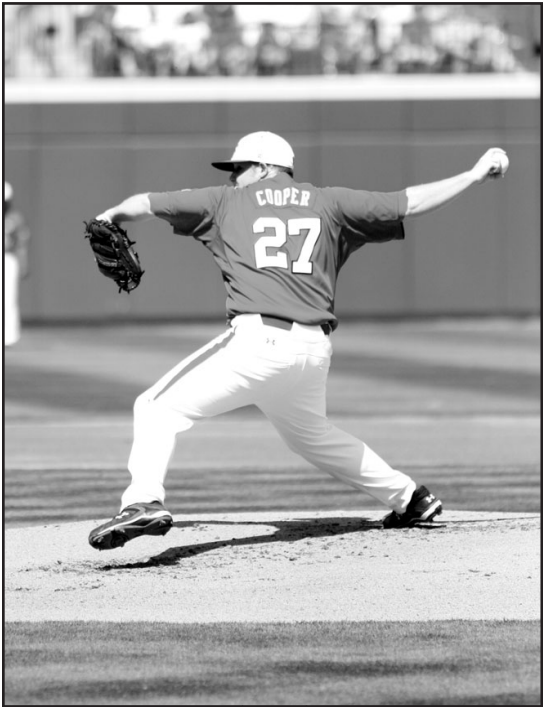
After getting whacked 21-6 in the final two games of its three-game home series against LSU over the weekend, South Carolina responded with a resounding victory over College of Charleston, 14-2. Junior pitcher Blake Cooper got the start and gave USC Coach Ray Tanner 5 2/3 innings, surrendering just one run off five hits. He added three strikeouts and walked two, earning his third win of the season.

Redshirt freshman Blake Cooper combined with sophomore Justin Hopper to throw 3 1/3 innings of one run ball to secure the win.

From the dish, it was the meat of the Gamecock lineup that got the job done, as the four, five, and six hitters all went yard. After a rough weekend against LSU in which Nick Ebert hit just 1-for-10, the junior first basemen found his power once again for a two-run homerun in the second inning. That homer was part of an eight-run second inning for USC, putting them ahead for good. Ebert finished 1-for-4 with two runs and two RBIs to go along with his eighth homerun of the season, tying him for the team lead with junior outfielder DeAngelo Mack.

The other Gamecocks to go deep were junior catcher Kyle Enders and senior third basemen Andrew Crisp. Tanner put Enders behind the plate to give junior catcher Justin Dalles a rest after catching three straight games this past weekend. Enders thanked Coach with his second dinger of the year.

Crisp’s solo homer gives him five on the year. Besides the homer, he still had a great



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Blake Cooper pitches against LBSU. Cooper gave up one run to CofC on Tuesday night.

day at the plate, going 3-for-4 with three runs and three RBIs, running his RBI total to 17 on the season. He’s now hit safely in 10 of the last 11 games.

Freshman outfielder and lead off hitter extended his hitting streak to five games with his hit in the fourth inning. He also added two more RBIs, continuing his hot hitting from the weekend.

Not to go unmentioned, sophomore and junior outfielders Whit Merrifield and DeAngelo Mack went a combined 4-for-9, contributing three runs and two RBIs between the two of them.

The first six hitters in the Gamecocks’ (15-6, 2-4 SEC) all recorded at least one hit, while the final three hitters couldn’t come up with one.

Wednesday night, Carolina returns to its new stadium for another non-conference matchup against Georgia Southern. First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

Carolina should strengthen basketball schedule

**Basketball must improve quality
of opponents to get to Big Dance**

A week removed from the end of the South Carolina men’s basketball season, the disappointment and anger over USC not receiving an invitation to the NCAA Tournament has subsided and the preparations towards continuing the program’s renaissance and qualifying for the Big Dance this coming season have begun.

Carolina’s bubble burst this year due to a late season swoon that saw the team lose three of their final four games by double digit margins in what was presumed a down SEC. However, the weak non-conference schedule RPI, No. 279 in the nation, did not help in any way, as teams like Arizona made the tournament after similar season ending slumps because they were able to fall back on their non-conference merits.

USC must go into next season with a schedule that will allow them to be in consideration for a tournament spot. Assuming that USC plays a 29-game regular season slate again, 13 slots for non-conference games will remain after the SEC schedule is set. Four games are most likely set in stone already. USC will be traveling upstate to play Clemson, they will play Baylor at home and Wofford on the road to complete contracted series, and as a term of coach Darrin Horn’s contract, USC is locked into a four-game, home-and-home series with Western Kentucky, which should start next year in Columbia. So, USC will have nine games to try and assure that they won’t fall short again on Selection Sunday. Here’s an idea of a schedule that could accomplish that:

Road Games: at Marquette, at North Carolina State, at Davidson

While USC may not be ready to play North Carolina or Duke, a non-conference

win on Tobacco Road will do wonders in terms of impressing the selection committee in March. The Wolfpack has struggled of late, but they still are an ACC team that would provide a test to USC. Marquette could be a preseason top 10 team, and with Horn having been an assistant at MU, a series could become reality. The NIT game against Davidson had a tournament like feel, and another crack against the Wildcats and Stephen Curry would help Carolina build towards March.

Home Games: Georgia Tech, USC-Upstate, South Carolina State, Virginia Military Institute, The Citadel, University of Alabama-Birmingham

No one expects Carolina to go crazy with the scheduling, so USC can feel free to line up a couple of easy home games against regional schools, with the added bonus that The Citadel, on the rise in the Southern Conference, and VMI, who knocked off Kentucky this past season, could have solid RPIs.

Georgia Tech and UAB would be two strong notches in the belt for the Gamecocks in terms of their home non-conference. Tech was down this year, finishing last in the ACC, but the Jackets have a young and promising team. UAB and their tenacious defense, out of Conference USA, spent a great deal of this year alongside USC in the tournament bubble discussion.

This isn’t by any means what the schedule will be, and like this season, it could end up being a weak group again if several teams have unexpected down seasons, but to have a fighting chance to get into the tournament next March, USC has to beef it up a bit in November and December.



JAMES
KRATCH

*First-Year
English
student*

The Executive Officers
attended the Student
Trustee Liaison Committee
with the Board of Trustees
on Friday, March 20th.

The first general session of
the 101st Student Senate
will be at 5:30 p.m. today in
the Senate Chambers. This
meeting is open to the
public.

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4BR 2BA 1700 sq ft 616 Laurel St. Walk-
ing distance to Vista. Perfect for 4 stds.
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Housing-Rent

OLD SHANDON 4BR 2BA for August
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cle to school. Very Clean! **463-5129**

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apply in person at 8913 Two Notch road
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Must be honest, hardworking, well
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work around your school schedule.
Please call Jon at 256-1888. Peoples
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Sodexo @ **THE NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER** is now accepting ap-
plications for a PT front desk clerk. This is
a great opportunity to gain experience in
a hotel atmosphere. Qualified applicant
must be able to work a flex sched, and
must be planing on being in Columbia
this summer. \$7.75/hr.. **Apply in per-**
son M-F 9am-4pm (Bring a copy of
your Spring '09 class schedule and
attach it to your application.)
The National Advocacy Center
1620 Pendleton St.
EEQ/a Drug Free Workplace

Help Wanted
Child Care

SUMMER CHILD CARE - boy & girl 13
yo. Must have transp & safe driving re-
cord. Exp a plus. Call **799-2863.**

Sitter for 4 y.o b/g twins in Irmo area.
1/wknd night & 1/afternoon/wk. Email
angeladusenbury@gmail.com \$10/hr.

Nanny for 3 school age children. Inclds
ight housework, errands. Tues, Wed.
Thur Some Mon Fri hrs. Must be reli-
able, resp driver, nonsmoker. Fax re-
sume. to **790-5086.**

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ors to teach. All land, adventure & water
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for Camp Counselors, Lifeguards/Swim
Instructors. We need dependable and
fun loving employees who love children.
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Help Wanted
Restaurants

BLUE FIN @SANDHILL Now Hiring all
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ASAP dillej@winthrop.edu.

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